

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

«وَمِنْ آيَاتِهِ أَنْ خَلَقَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا
لِتَسْكُنُوا إِلَيْهَا وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً
إِنَّ فِي ذَلِكَ لَآيَاتٍ لِقَوْمٍ يُفَكِّرُونَ ﴿٢١﴾»
الرؤى ٢١

«And among His signs is that He created for you, from yourselves, spouses that you may dwell (in joy and security) unto them, and He set between you love and mercy; surely in that are signs for those who reflect.»

[Ar-Rūm 30:21]

﴿وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً﴾

THE QUEST FOR LOVE & MERCY

REGULATIONS FOR MARRIAGE & WEDDING IN Islām

Revised Edition

مُحَمَّدُ مُصْطَفَى الْجِبَالِي

MUHAMMAD MUSTAFĀ AL-JIBĀLĪ

مَنْشُورَاتُ الْكِتَابِ وَالسُّنَّةِ

AL-KITAAB & AS-SUNNAH PUBLISHING

All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in any language, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means — electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise — without the express permission of the publisher.

The Quest for Love & Mercy
Regulations for Marriage & Wedding in Islām
(The Muslim Family – 1)
Revised Edition

24+180 p. 24 × 18 cm
ISBN 1-891229-51-6

Published by:

Al-Kitāb & as-Sunnah Publishing
USA: P.O. Box 2542, Arlington, Texas, 76004
Lebanon: Beirut, Tel: 961-3-046-338
Saudi Arabia: P.O. Box 5683, Madinah,
Tel: 966-50-960-0572, Fax: 966-4-846-6002
Web: www.kspublications.com
Email: info@kspublications.com

Printed by:

Al-Maktab al-Islāmī
P.O. Box 11/3771, Beirut, Lebanon
Tel: 961-5-456-280, Fax: 961-5-450-657
Web: www.almaktab-alislami.com
Email: islamic_of@almaktab-alislami.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS v

PRELUDE xiii

Opening Sermon	xiii
Our Mission: Purification and Cultivation	xiv
1. Purification	xvi
a) Purifying Our Sources of Knowledge (xvi)	
b) Purifying Our Beliefs (xvii)	
c) Purifying Our Actions (xvii)	
2. Cultivation	xviii
a) Becoming True Followers of the <i>Salaf</i> (xviii)	
b) Inviting to the Pure Religion (xviii)	
c) Presenting the Islāmic Solution (xx)	

PREFACE xxi

The Muslim Family	xxi
This Book	xxii
Acknowledgement	xxiii

CHAPTER 1

A BLESSED BOND 1

Marriage Is One of Allāh's Laws	1
Islām Urges the Muslims to Marry	2
Definition (2)	
A Command from Allāh and His Messenger (3)	
Allāh's Promised Help (4)	
Danger of Bachelorship (5)	
Marriage Is a Practice of the Prophets	6
Previous Prophets (6)	
Our Prophet (6)	
No Monasticism in Islām (7)	
Disliking the Sunnah? (8)	

Advantages of Marriage for Individuals	9
1. Preservation of Faith and Religion (9)	
2. Preservation of Chastity (10)	
3. Enjoying Love, Mercy and Security (11)	
4. Lawful Fulfillment of Desire (12)	
5. Pleasurable Way of Increasing Good Deeds (13)	
6. Living a Harmonious Life (16)	
7. Following the Way of the Prophets (17)	
8. Deserving Allāh's Help (17)	
9. A Lasting Relationship (17)	
Social Advantages of Marriage	18
1. Preserving Humankind (18)	
2. Preserving Kinship Ties (18)	
3. Safeguarding the Society from Moral Degeneracy (18)	
4. Safeguarding the Society from Physical Diseases (19)	
5. Establishing the Family Environment (19)	
6. Increasing the Number of Muslims (19)	
7. Strengthening the Muslim Community (20)	
CHAPTER 2	
SPOUSE SELECTION 21	
Selecting a Wife	21
A Conditional Choice (21)	
1. Righteousness (22)	
1.a The Wife Brings Happiness or Misery (23)	
2. Good Character (24)	
3. Virginity (26)	
4. Ability to Bear Children (26)	
5. Loving Attitude (27)	
6. Contentment (28)	
7. Naivety (29)	
8. Beauty (29)	
9. Compatibility (30)	
Qualities Sought in a Good Husband	31
Dīn and Good Character (31)	
Is Wealth Important? (32)	
No Comparison (33)	

CHAPTER 3	
COURTING 35	
Definitions and Examples	35
Definitions (35)	
Examples from the Sunnah (35)	
The <i>Bid'ah</i> of Reciting <i>al-Fātiḥah</i> (37)	
Looking at the Courted Woman	37
Permission (37)	
Conditions (39)	
Exchanging Photographs (40)	
Is a Woman Allowed to Look? (41)	
Talking and Correspondence (41)	
Woes of Internet Courting (42)	
Prohibited Courting	43
Courting a Married Woman (44)	
Courting a Woman Who is Being Courted (44)	
Other Prohibited Forms (46)	
Offering a Woman for Marriage	47
Performing <i>Istikhārah</i> and Seeking Advice	49
Description of <i>Istikhārah</i> (49)	
Misconceptions about <i>Istikhārah</i> (51)	
Seeking Advice (51)	
Telling the Truth (53)	
Violations in <i>Khiṭbah</i>	53
1. Privacy & Intimacy between the Engaged Couple (53)	
2. Engagement Party (54)	
3. Engagement Rings and Jewelry (54)	
CHAPTER 4	
THE MARRIAGE CONTRACT 55	
Introduction	55
Importance of the Marriage Contract (55)	
No Joking in Marriage (55)	
Basic Elements (56)	
Bridegroom's Eligibility	57
Bride's Eligibility	57
The Bride's Permission	58

Ruling (58)	
A Virgin Bride (59)	
A Non-virgin Bride (60)	
An Orphan Bride (61)	
A Freed Slave Woman (63)	
The Woman's <i>Walī</i>	64
Ruling (64)	
Who Is a Woman's <i>Walī</i> ? (64)	
A Woman May Not Appoint Her <i>Walī</i> (65)	
Marriage Without a <i>Walī</i> (66)	
A Difficult <i>Walī</i> (67)	
The <i>Walī</i> 's Responsibility (68)	
The Witnesses	68
The <i>Mahr</i> (Dowry)	68
Definition and Ruling (68)	
Who Takes the <i>Mahr</i> (70)	
Kinds (71)	
Moderateness in Dowries (72)	
Unspecified <i>Mahrs</i> (74)	
Dowries of the Mothers of the Believers (75)	
Weak Story: "a Woman Is Right and 'Umar Is Wrong" (77)	
A Possible Reason for Destruction (79)	
Postponed <i>Mahr</i> (80)	
Great Punishment for Taking Away a Woman's <i>Mahr</i> (80)	
Conditions	81
Permissibility of Setting Conditions (81)	
Power of the Conditions (82)	
Suspending a Condition (82)	
Void Conditions (83)	
The Contract	84
The <i>Khutbah</i> (84)	
<i>Ījāb</i> and <i>Qabūl</i> (85)	
Writing the Contract (86)	
Outcome of the Marriage Contract (86)	

CHAPTER 5	
CELEBRATING THE MARRIAGE 87	
Publicizing the Marriage	87

Supplication	88
Singing and Beating the <i>Duff</i>	90
Prohibition of Music (90)	
Exclusion of the <i>Duff</i> (91)	
Beating the <i>Duff</i> and Singing in Weddings (92)	
What to Sing (93)	
Dancing (93)	
Giving Gifts	94
Avoiding Sinning During the Wedding Celebration	95
Important Warning (95)	
Avoiding Un-Islāmic Appearance (95)	
Avoiding Un-Islāmic Practices (98)	
Avoiding Taking Pictures (99)	

CHAPTER 6	
THE WALĪMAH 101	
Definition and Ruling	101
Regulations and Recommendations	102
The <i>Walīmah</i> 's Time (102)	
Types of Food (103)	
Helping with the Cost (104)	
Whom to Invite (104)	
Sincerity (106)	
Avoiding Impermissible Utensils (108)	
Inviting Many People (109)	
Honoring The Guests (109)	
Prophetic Manners in Honoring the Guests (110)	
Manners for the Guests	111
Answering the Invitation Is a Religious Obligation (111)	
Legitimate Excuses (112)	
Avoiding Invitations that Involve Disobedience (113)	
What Fasting People Should Do (115)	
Seeking Permission to Enter (116)	
When Going Without Invitation (118)	
Greeting with <i>Salām</i> , and Shaking Hands (119)	
Pronouncing Allāh's Name over the Food (121)	
Avoiding Criticizing the Food (122)	

Moderateness in Eating	(123)
The Blessing of Eating with Others	(124)
Sitting Humbly and Eating from Around the Sides	(124)
Avoiding Wasting Food	(126)
Praising Allāh and Supplicating to Him after Eating	(127)
Supplicating for the Hosts	(130)
Departure	(131)

CHAPTER 7

CONSUMMATING THE MARRIAGE 133

Advising the Married Couple	133
Kindness to the Bride	133
Praying Two <i>Rak'ahs</i> Together	134
Invoking Allāh's Blessing	135
Islāmic Etiquettes of Marital Intimacy	136
Supplication Before Intercourse	(136)
Miscellaneous <i>Ādāb</i> for Intercourse	(137)
The Morning Following the Wedding	138
Honeymoon	138

CHAPTER 8

FORBIDDEN MARRIAGES 139

Permanently Prohibited Women	139
Introduction	(139)
Prohibition Based on Blood Relationships	(141)
Prohibition Based on Marital Relationships	(141)
Prohibition Based on Milk Relationships	(142)
Temporarily Prohibited Women or Marriages	146
Marrying More than Four Women	(146)
Simultaneously Marrying Two Sisters	(146)
Simultaneously Marrying Aunts and Their Nieces	(147)
Women Married to Other Men	(147)
Adulteresses	(147)
<i>Mushrik</i> Women	(149)
Marriage During <i>Ihrām</i>	(150)
Marrying a Pregnant Captive-Woman	(150)
Prohibited Marriages of <i>Jāhiliyyah</i>	151
'Ā'ishah's <i>Hadīth</i>	(151)

Partially Open Marriage	(152)
Marriage of a Group	(153)
Public Prostitution	(153)
Other Prohibited Marriages	153
Marriage of <i>Mu'ah</i>	(153)
Marriage of <i>Tahlīl</i>	(155)
Marriage of <i>Shighār</i>	(157)
Marriage with the Intention of Divorce	(158)
Marrying Non-Muslims	158
General Rule	(158)
Exception to the Rule	(159)
Who "the People of the Book" Are	(160)
A Difficult Condition	(161)
Conclusion	(162)

REFERENCES 165

APPENDIX A: MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE 169

APPENDIX B: ARABIC TERMINOLOGY 171

Introduction	171
Translating and Referencing Qur'ān and <i>Ḥadīth</i>	(171)
Useful Charts	(171)
Arabic Terms	(171)
Glossary of Common Terms	172
Arabic Weekdays and Islāmic <i>Hijrī</i> Months	177
Transliteration	178
Notable Utterances	179
Index of Arabic Terms	180

«And hold fast, all together, by the rope of Allāh, and be not divided among yourselves.»¹

C) PRESENTING THE ISLĀMIC SOLUTION

Inviting to the Truth includes providing realistic Islāmic solutions to contemporary problems. There is no doubt that Allāh’s guidance is the only comprehensive way to resolving people’s problems at the individual and communal levels. Allāh (ﷻ) says:

﴿وَأَنْ أَحْكُمَ بَيْنَهُمْ بِمَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ، وَلَا تَتَّبِعْ أَهْوَاءَهُمْ﴾ المائدة ٤٩

«Judge between them according to what Allāh has revealed, and do not follow their errant views.»²

1 Āl ‘Imrān 3:103.
2 Al-Mā'idah 5:49.

PREFACE

The Muslim Family

“The Muslim Family” is a series of books that presents detailed discussions relating to the family life, starting with courting and marriage, and extending into raising children according to Islām. To-date, this series consists of the following titles:

1	The Quest for Love & Mercy Regulations for Marriage & Wedding in Islām	﴿وَجَعَلَ بَيْنَكُمْ مَوَدَّةً وَرَحْمَةً﴾
2	Closer than a Garment Marital Intimacy According to the Pure Sunnah	﴿هُنَّ لِبَاسٌ لَكُمْ، وَأَنْتُمْ لِبَاسٌ لَهُنَّ﴾
3	The Fragile Vessels Rights and Obligations between the Spouses in Islām	«رفقاً بالقوارير»
4	Our Precious Sprouts Islāmic Regulations for Newborns	أفلاذُ أكبادنا

The first three parts of this series, including this current book, deal with various aspects of marriage.

Marriage holds a position of perpetual significance because of the central role it plays in the human life. It is not surprising, therefore, that the scholars of Islām have discussed it in extensive writings through the ages.

Under the contemporary influence of non-Islāmic cultures, many misconceptions have been introduced into various areas of Islām — spilling into issues of marriage, divorce, and other family-related matters.

Viewing the needs and concerns of the Muslims who are forced to live in such alien environments, we find that most Islāmic writings on marriage are restricted in scope — having been written for different cultures and backgrounds.

This leaves quite a large gap that needs to be filled for the benefit of the English-speaking Muslims — which is what we attempt to fulfill in this 3-book set that covers various aspects of marriage according to the authentic Sunnah:

The first book discusses the importance and advantages of marriage, selecting a spouse, the courting process, the marriage contract, the wedding celebration, the *walimah*, and forbidden marriages. It provides a practical procedure for performing the marriage contract and includes a model marriage certificate.

The second book discusses the proper etiquettes of marital intimacy, forbidden acts of intimacy, the perils of *zinā*, and birth control. It answers many frequently-asked questions about various acts of intimacy.

The third book discusses the rights and obligations of the two spouses. It includes brief biographies of the Mothers of the Believers, realistic pictures from the life of the Prophet (ﷺ) with his wives, and a complete discussion of the *ḥadīth* of Umm Zar'.

This series deals with marriage and other family issues in a practical approach, taking advantage of the author's years of experience in the field of marriage and counseling. Each book serves as a complete handbook within its scope — providing reliable knowledge based on authentic evidence from Allāh's Book and His Messenger's (ﷺ) Sunnah.

This Book

This is the first book in "the Muslim Family" series. It discusses all steps involved in establishing the marriage. This includes the importance and advantages of marriage, qualities to be sought in a spouse, the courting process, conditions and requirements for the marriage contract, etiquettes for marriage consummation, wedding celebration, and forbidden types of marriage. It also points out a large number of violations to Islām that are commonly committed by Muslims at every step of the marriage process.

Within its scope, this book thoroughly covers all issues that are conventionally discussed or inquired about — which makes it valuable as a reference and a textbook. At the same time, its simple presentation

makes it easy to read and understand by the layman.

The first edition of this book was published five years ago (June 2000). While keeping the original content, this "revised edition" has the following main enhancements:

- ▷ It corrects many typing errors, both in the Arabic and English texts.
- ▷ It improves the style and structure of many sentences and paragraphs.
- ▷ It replaces the original "Prelude" and "Arabic Terms" with improved versions.
- ▷ The cover's color-scheme and other art-work have been modified.

Acknowledgement

All praise and thanks are due to our Lord (ﷻ) who facilitated the completion of this work. May He further reward all the Muslims who helped and supported this effort in various ways. In particular, may Allāh (ﷻ) reward my *shaykh* and teacher, Muḥammad Nāṣir ud-Dīn al-Albānī whose works have benefited us in ways beyond description, my son 'Abdullāh who designed the original cover, Sundus al-As'ad who proof-read the manuscript of the original edition, and my daughters who proofread the manuscript and provided valuable suggestions.

We ask Allāh (ﷻ) to make this humble effort helpful and profitable to the Muslims, forgive our shortcomings, purify our work from hypocrisy and conceit, and accept it from us.

«رَبَّنَا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجِنَا وَذُرِّيَّاتِنَا قُرَّةَ أَعْيُنٍ،
وَجْعَلْنَا لِلْمُتَّقِينَ إِمَامًا ﴿٧٤﴾ الفرقان

«Our Lord! Grant unto us wives and offspring who
will be the comfort of our eyes, and make us leaders

for the pious.»¹

﴿رَبِّ اجْعَلْنِي مُقِيمَ الصَّلَاةِ وَمِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي، رَبَّنَا وَتَقَبَّلْ دُعَاءِ ﴿٤٠﴾
رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيَّ وَلِلْمُؤْمِنِينَ يَوْمَ يَقُومُ الْحِسَابُ﴾ ﴿٤١﴾

إبراهيم ٤٠-٤١

«My Lord! Let me establish the prayer, and the same for my progeny. Our Lord! Answer my *du'ā*. Our Lord! forgive me and my parents and the believers on the Day of Reckoning.»²

Our Lord, forgive us and all of the believers, and bestow Your peace and praise upon our Prophet Muḥammad (ﷺ).

Muhammad Mustafā al-Jibālī
Al-Madīnah al-Munawwarah
Wednesday, 26 Rajab 1426
31 August 2005

CHAPTER 1

A BLESSED BOND

Marriage Is One of Allāh's Laws

Allāh (ﷻ) created our world and the laws that govern it. Among Allāh's laws is that we need food to survive, air to breathe, rain for vegetation, and so on.

One of Allāh's important laws is that things are created in pairs; and from these pairs, reproduction occurs. Allāh says:

﴿وَمِنْ كُلِّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقْنَا زَوْجَيْنِ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَذَكَّرُونَ﴾ الذاريات ٤٩

«We have created all things in pairs, that perhaps you may remember.»¹

This applies to human beings who are made of male-female pairs as well. Humankind started with our father, Ādam, and our mother, Hawwā' (Eve). From that pair, Allāh (ﷻ) created all of the other people, as He (ﷻ) says:

﴿يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ اتَّقُوا رَبَّكُمُ الَّذِي خَلَقَكُمْ مِنْ نَفْسٍ وَاحِدَةٍ، وَخَلَقَ مِنْهَا زَوْجَهَا، وَبَثَّ مِنْهُمَا رِجَالًا كَثِيرًا وَنِسَاءً﴾ النساء ١

«O people! Revere your Lord who has created you from a single soul, created from it its mate, and dispersed from both of them many men and women.»²

¹ *Ath-Thāriyāt* 51:49.

² *An-Nisā'* 4:1.

¹ *Al-Furqān* 25:74.

² *Ibrāhīm* 14:40-41.

And He (ﷺ) says:

«يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ إِنَّا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ مِنْ ذَكَرٍ وَأُنْثَى، وَجَعَلْنَاكُمْ شُعُوبًا وَقَبَائِلَ لِتَعَارَفُوا، إِنَّ أَكْرَمَكُمْ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ أَتْقَاكُمْ، إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَلِيمٌ خَبِيرٌ» ﴿الحجرات ١٣﴾

«O people! We have created you from one male and one female, and have made you nations and tribes so as to know one another. The noblest among you in the sight of Allāh is the most pious. Verily, Allāh is All-Knowing and All-Aware.»¹

This continues to be the way of reproduction for humans, as Allāh (ﷻ) says:

«وَاللَّهُ جَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ أَزْوَاجًا، وَجَعَلَ لَكُمْ مِنْ أَزْوَاجِكُمْ بَنِينَ وَحَفَدَةً، وَرَزَقَكُمْ مِنَ الطَّيِّبَاتِ.» ﴿النحل ٧٢﴾

«Allāh has given you spouses from yourselves, and has given you, from your spouses, children and grandchildren, and has provided you with good things for your sustenance.»²

Islām Urges the Muslims to Marry

DEFINITION

The word commonly used in Islāmic texts for marriage is *nikāh*. In the original Arabic language, it means “intercourse”. But it was then applied to the marriage agreement because it is a means to intercourse.³

Thus the statement, “He performed *nikāh* on the daughter of so and so,” normally means that he executed an agreement for marriage. On

1 Al-Hujurāt 49:13.

2 An-Nahl 16:72.

3 Lisān ul-'Arab.

the other hand, the statement, “He performed *nikāh* on his wife,” means intercourse. In this book, we will mostly replace the word “*nikāh*” with its English equivalents to avoid confusion.

A COMMAND FROM ALLĀH AND HIS MESSENGER

Allāh (ﷻ) commands the believers to marry and help those under their charge to marry as well. He says:

«وَأَنْكِحُوا الْأَيْمَىٰ مِنْكُمْ وَالصَّالِحِينَ مِنْ عِبَادِكُمْ وَإِمَائِكُمْ، إِنْ يَكُونُوا فُقَرَاءَ يُغْنِهِمُ اللَّهُ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ، وَاللَّهُ وَاسِعٌ عَلِيمٌ» ﴿النور ٣٢﴾

«Marry the unmarried among you and the righteous of your male and female slaves. If they should be poor, Allāh will enrich them from His favors. Allāh is Bountiful and Knowing.»¹

Also, Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) commanded the young people to marry, and advised those of them who could not afford it to fast as a means of controlling their sexual desire. Ibn Mas'ūd (رضي الله عنه) reported, “We were with the Prophet (ﷺ) while we were young and had no wealth whatsoever. So Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«يا معشر الشباب، مَنْ اسْتَطَاعَ مِنْكُمُ الْبَاءَةَ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، فَإِنْهُ أَغْضُ لِلْبَصْرِ وَأَحْصَنُ لِلْفَرْجِ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ، فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ.»

«Young men, those among you who can afford marriage should do so, for it helps lower the gaze and guard the private parts (from *zinā*). And those who cannot afford it should fast, for fasting is a repression (of desire) for him.»²

Similarly, Anas (رضي الله عنه) reported that the Prophet (ﷺ) said:

1 An-Nūr 24:32.

2 Recorded by al-Bukhārī, Muslim, and others.

«عليكم بالبائة، فَمَنْ لَمْ يَسْتَطِعْ فَعَلَيْهِ بِالصَّوْمِ فَإِنَّهُ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ.»

«You should marry. And those who cannot afford it should fast, because it restrains their desire.»¹

And 'Uthmān (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«مَنْ كَانَ مِنْكُمْ ذَا طَوْلٍ فَلْيَتَزَوَّجْ، فَإِنَّهُ أَغْضُ لِلْبَصْرِ

وَأَحْصَنُ لِلْفَرْجِ، وَمَنْ لَا فَالصَّوْمُ لَهُ وَجَاءٌ.»

«Anyone among you who has the ability should marry, because it helps lower the (lustful) gaze and guard the private parts. And whoever cannot afford it should fast, because fasting is a restraint (of desire) for him.»²

ALLĀH'S PROMISED HELP

Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) indicates that Allāh promises to help any person who aspires to marry in order to avoid sinning. Abū Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) reported that Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«ثَلَاثَةٌ حَقٌّ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَوْنُهُمْ: الْمَجَاهِدُ فِي سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ،

وَالْمُكَاتِبُ الَّذِي يَرِيدُ الْأَدَاءَ، وَالنَّاكِحُ الَّذِي يَرِيدُ الْعَفَافَ.»

«There are three individuals that it is a right upon Allāh to help them: a fighter for Allāh's cause, a *mukātib*³ who wants to pay himself off, and one who seeks marriage for the purpose of preserving his chastity.»⁴

1 Recorded by at-Ṭabarānī (in *al-Awṣaṭ*) and ad-Ḍiyā' ul-Maḡdisī. Verified to be authentic by al-Albānī (*Ṣaḥīḥ ul-Jāmi'* no. 4058).

2 Recorded by an-Nasā'ī. Verified to be authentic by al-Albānī (*Ṣaḥīḥ ul-Jāmi'* no. 6498).

3 A slave who makes a contract with his master to purchase his freedom.

4 Recorded by Aḥmad, at-Tirmithī, an-Nasā'ī, and others. Verified to be *ḥasan* by al-

In another report, Abū Hurayrah (رضي الله عنه) said that Allāh's Messenger (ﷺ) said:

«حَقٌّ عَلَى اللَّهِ عَوْنُ مَنْ نَكَحَ أَلْتِمَاسَ الْعَفَافِ عَمَّا حَرَّمَ اللَّهُ.»

«It is a right upon Allāh to help one who seeks to marry for the purpose of avoiding what Allāh has prohibited.»¹

DANGER OF BACHELORSHIP

A strange phenomenon has recently developed among Muslims, without being confined to one country or nationality — a phenomenon whose consequences can prove to be most devastating to the Muslim community. This phenomenon is the alarming number of unmarried Muslim men and women.

On an individual level, it may appear that bachelorship poses a very insignificant threat to the Islāmic world. However, in Islām, unlike other religions, matters are weighed in light of their benefits or harms to the community as a whole. So, what is the effect of single unmarried men and women on the community? To find the answer to this question, all one has to do is look at the non-Muslim communities. Every day we are confronted by the perversion and sinful practices that the non-Muslims find acceptable in their societies. This occurs because of their unnatural decision to abstain from marriage.

No Muslim would want the Muslim *Ummah* to fall into lifestyles like those of Pompeii or Sodom and Gomorrah — towns that Allāh totally destroyed because of their perversion and disobedience. Protection against a fate similar to that can only be through lawful marriage.

Albānī (*Ṣaḥīḥ ul-Jāmi'* no. 3050).

1 Recorded by Ibn 'Adiyy. Verified to be *ḥasan* by al-Albānī (*Ṣaḥīḥ ul-Jāmi'* no. 3152).